

27. (NEW) A device according to claim 20, wherein the biocompatible material is constructed as a jacket having an upper and lower end, wherein the jacket is configured to surround the heart and the jacket is closed at the lower end.
28. (NEW) A device according to claim 23 wherein the material comprises intertwined fibers.
29. (NEW) A device according to claim 28 wherein the intertwined fibers are of a knit construction.
30. (NEW) A method according to claim 28 wherein the intertwined fibers are of an atlas knit construction.
31. (NEW) A device according to claim 23 wherein the biocompatible material is selected from polytetrafluoroethylene, expanded polytetrafluoroethylene, polypropylene, polyester or stainless steel.

REMARKS

No new matter is added by the amendments to the claims. Claims 18-31 are currently pending.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments to the claims, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

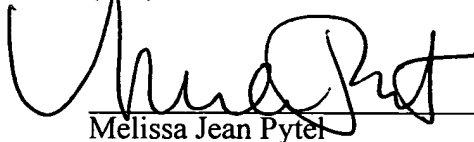
MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.

P.O. Box 2903

Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903

(612) 332-5300

Date: June 13, 2001



Melissa Jean Pytel
Reg. No. 41,512

09660576-061301